



Cameron G. Priebe  
Mayor

Dale Tamsen  
Chief of Police

# CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

December 2008

## How to Properly Secure Sliding Glass Doors

Sliding glass doors are easy for a burglar to enter if no remedial action is taken. Often, the door panels can simply be lifted out of the tracks. To solve this problem, open the active door and



install a few screws in the track, allowing the screw to project down 3/8" to 1/2". Use a stack of several metal washers to serve as a space so the screws can be firmly set. Slide the door closed, making sure the extended screws pass freely over the top rail of the door. Now try to lift the door from the track; upward movement should be stopped by the screws before the door can clear the bottom track. Add more washers if needed to extend the screw heads downward.

Once the door has been secured from lifting, some sort of auxiliary lock should be provided because more than likely, the standard lock supplied with the door is nothing more than a small hook bolt and that easily be forced open. Locking bars (commonly called the "Charlie Bar") are ideal for this purpose; but a length of dowel—an old broom or mop handle, for example—can also be placed in the bottom track to keep the door from being pushed open. The dowel should be cut to a length so it fits snugly in the track between the wall and the door frame. If ventilation is needed, another dowel could be cut a few inches shorter to permit the sliding door to be opened no greater than six inches.

Official  
Publication of  
the Taylor  
Police  
Department